

Message Text

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62
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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL:VE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 004711

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, FR, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT WAR MEMORIAL IN
FRANCE

1. CONGRESSMAN TEAGUE HAS WRITTEN TO THE SECRETARY TO ASK
FOR CURRENT INFORMATION AND A PROJECTED TIMETABLE FOR COM-
PLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS ARE IN
PROGRESS, TO AMEND THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FRENCH
TO PERMIT THE ABMC TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POINTE
DU HOC MEMORIAL IN NORMANDY. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THE NEGO-
TIATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED SOON SINCE THIS MONUMENT,
COMMEMORATING THE ACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN RANGERS DURING
THE NORMANDY INVASION, IS LOCATED ON A SITE THAT WOULD BE
VERY APPEALING TO COMMERCIAL DEVELOPERS. HE NOTES THAT THE
LEGISLATION ENABLING THE ABMC TO MAINTAIN SUCH MONUMENTS
WAS ENACTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT TO
MOVE QUICKLY TO PROTECT THIS PARTICULAR SITE.

2. PLEASE CONSULT WITH GENERAL DONALDSON OR HIS STAFF AND
ADVISE DEPARTMENT SOONEST. KISSINGER

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